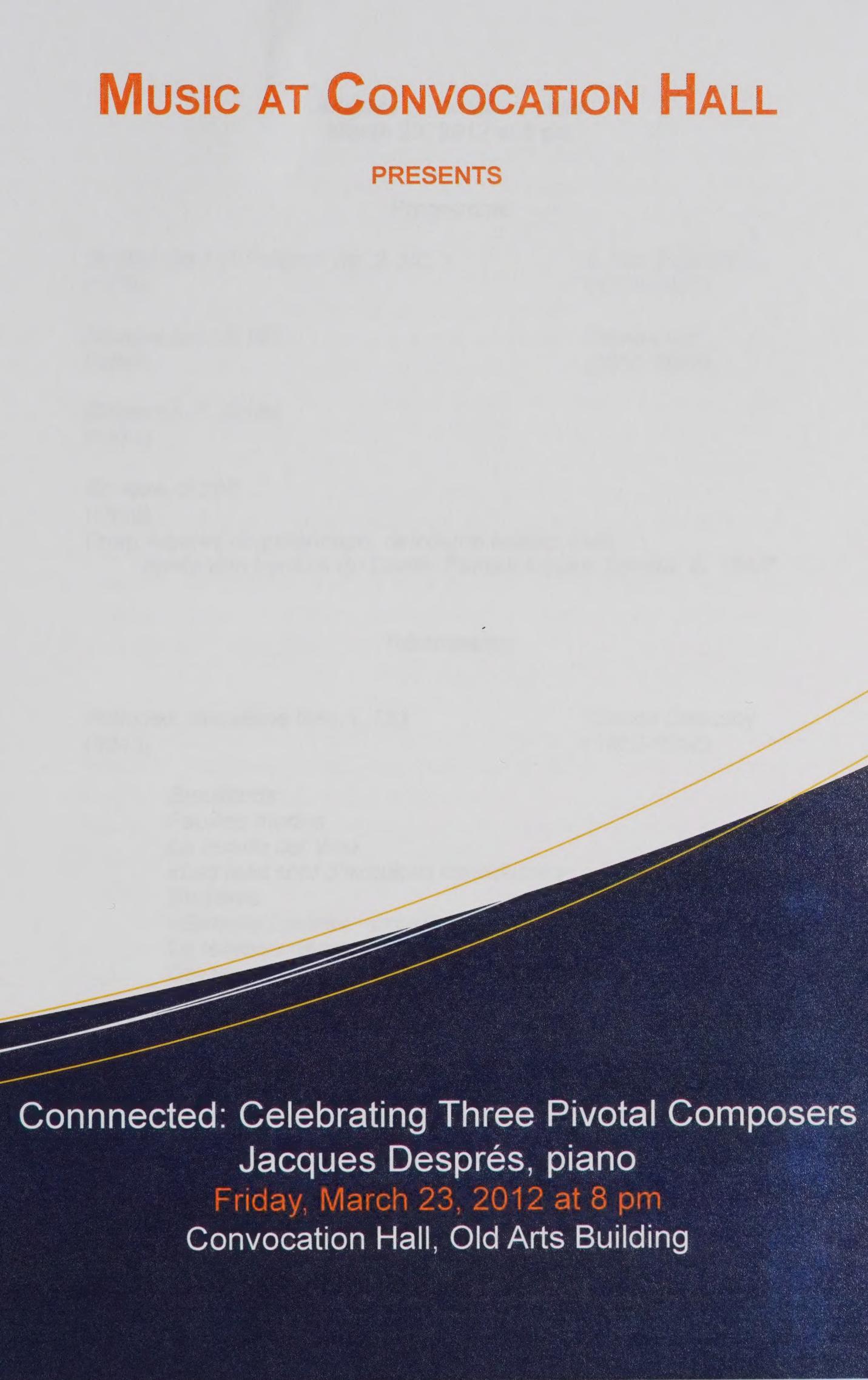


MUSIC AT CONVOCATION HALL

PRESENTS



Connected: Celebrating Three Pivotal Composers
Jacques Després, piano
Friday, March 23, 2012 at 8 pm
Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building

Jacques C. Després, piano
March 23, 2012 at 8 pm

Programme

<i>Sonata No. 1 in F minor, op. 2, No. 1</i> (1795)	L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)
<i>Nuages gris, S.199</i> (1881)	Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
<i>Élégie no. 1, S.196</i> (1874)	
<i>En rêve, S.207</i> (1858)	
From <i>Années de pèlerinage, deuxième année: Italie</i> <i>Après une Lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata, S. 161/7</i>	

Intermission

<i>Préludes, deuxième livre, L 123</i> (1913)	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
<i>Brouillards</i>	
<i>Feuilles mortes</i>	
<i>La Puerta del Vino</i>	
<i>«Les fées sont d'exquises danseuses»</i>	
<i>Bruyères</i>	
<i>«General Lavine» - excentric -</i>	
<i>La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune</i>	
<i>Ondine</i>	
<i>Hommage à S. Pickwick Esq. P.P.M.P.C.</i>	
<i>Canope</i>	
<i>Les tierces alternées</i>	
<i>Feux d'artifice</i>	

Jacques C. Després

Born in Ste-Anne-de-la Pérade – a direct descendant of Québec City's first settler—Després and his extraordinary musical talent caught the eye legendary Canadian conductor Wilfrid Pelletier in 1963. The following year, Félix Leclerc gave the young pianist a book, in which he inscribed: "Men are bored. Rock the human suffering in music (your music)[Les hommes s'ennuent. Bercer la douleur humaine en musique (ta musique)]." Després continued to receive accolades, garnering such awards as the first prize at the Montreal Symphony Orchestra competition in 1978, and the Prix d'Europe in 1981 from the Académie de musique du Québec. With this particular award, Després joined an elite list of distinguished Québec musicians, including such talents as Jacques Hétu, André Prévost, Chantal Juillet, Wilfrid Pelletier, Clermont Pépin, and Kenneth Gilbert. Després has led a diverse artistic life, appearing as a soloist with many orchestras, solo recitalist, collaborative artist, lecturer, educator, recording artist, and musical director of the Summer Serenades at Stony Brook University in New York.

Critics worldwide have celebrated Després' musical approach for its rare combination of virtuosity and artistic integrity. Després commands a broad and eclectic repertoire. Notable recordings include world premieres of the complete Joseph Martin Kraus piano works and The New Goldberg Variations (Bach, Frazelle, Rouse, Lieberson, Corigliano, Schickele and Danielpour) with cellist Tanya Prochazka. The Kraus performances, on Naxos, received widespread critical acclaim and exposure in national and international radio broadcasts. The Kraus album became a bestselling album for a Canadian artist on Germany's Amazon site in 2006. Després supplemented this recording with two compact discs of Kraus' complete chamber music work (also on Naxos) where he served as editor. His broad interests are reflected in his performance of the Chopin ballades on a period instrument in New York City in the late 1980s using the then little-known Ekier edition of Chopin's works. He was subsequently invited to lecture at Juilliard on the use of this landmark edition of the Polish master's ballades.

Highlights of the past few seasons include performances of Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 and appearances in Hong Kong, Beijing, Manila, Seattle, Montreal, New York, Chicago, Reno, and Sacramento. He performed Beethoven's Choral Fantasie at the inauguration for University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera. He was invited to present master classes at leading institutions in North America as well as the Central Conservatory in Beijing. Després served as judge and chairman of many competitions in Canada and abroad. In the fall 2009, he was invited as the Daniel Éricourt Artist-in-Residence at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. In this residency, Després follows an esteemed line of pianists such as Jon Nakamatsu, Jose Feghali, David Owen Norris and Pascal Rogé. In the 2010-2011 season, Després' performances included solo and chamber music recitals as well performances of the E minor Chopin concerto. In the next two seasons, he will perform in Canada, US and China as well as returning as the 2012 Daniel Éricourt Artist-in-Residence.

Since his appointment as Professor of Piano with the Department of Music at the University of Alberta in 2000, Després has worked with some of the most talented students from Canada and abroad. In 2009 one of his students became the first music performance doctoral student in Canada to receive the Vanier scholarship from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Després was awarded a Premier Prix à l'unanimité au Conservatoire de Musique du Québec. He graduated with a Master's degree from the Juilliard School and holds a DMA from the University at Stony Brook. He received the Artist Diploma with Distinction at Indiana University. His teachers were Christiane Sénart, Gyorgy Sebok, Adele Marcus and Gilbert Kalish.

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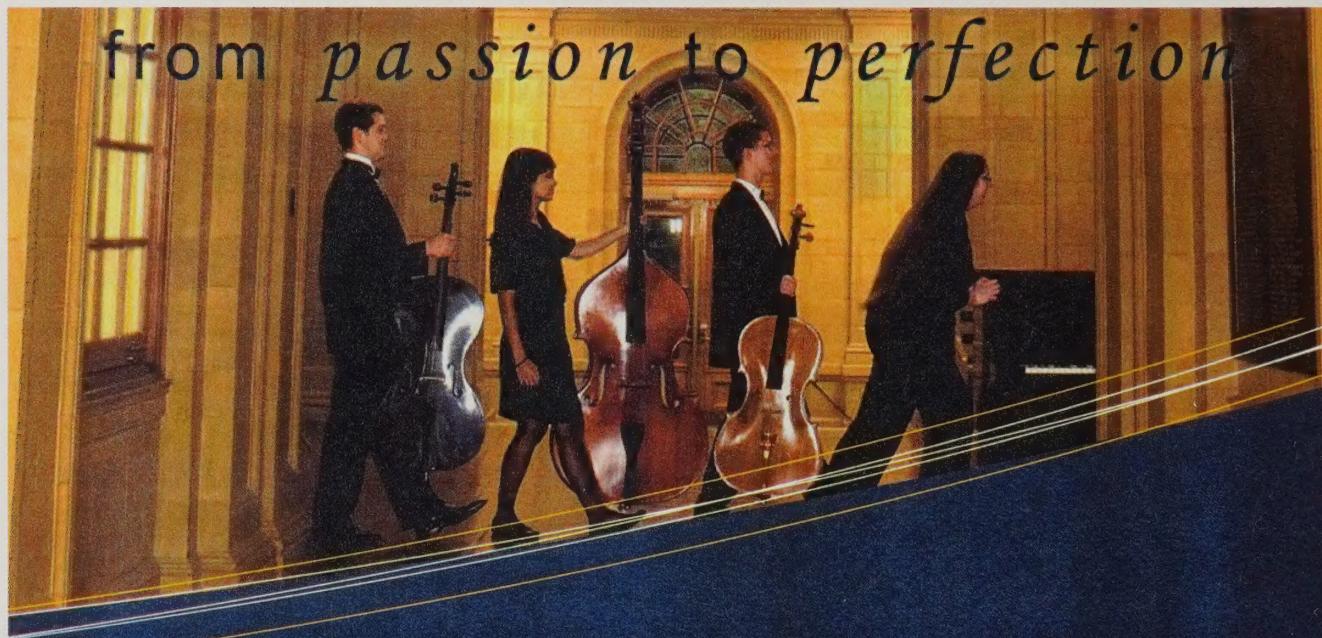
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“...pianism of the first order...” Quebec City, QC
“...powerful and all consuming...” Kingston, NY
“...can handle just about any problem Liszt devised.” Montreal, QC
“...the surging, pounding, sweeping notes covering the entire keyboard left an electrified, scorched audience.” Manila, Philippines
“...delicate, subtle playing.” Albuquerque, NM
“... his interpretation was sound, poetic and convincing.” Edmonton, AB
“...a dream collaborator...” La Jolla, CA
“...I cannot praise his playing too highly.” J Scott Morrison, top 25 reviewer, Amazon.com
“...what I look for in a performer: intelligence and expressiveness.” Jacques Hétu, QC



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Music at Winspear presents:

University of Alberta Opera Performance: Orphée aux Enfers

Featuring the University of Alberta Opera Performance

Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 3 pm at the Winspear Centre for the Arts

\$60 Season Flex Pass | \$20 Adults | \$15 Seniors | \$10 Students

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World Music Week presents:

The Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensemble

Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 7pm in Convocation Hall

Admission by Donation

The Indian Music Ensemble

Friday, March 30, 2012 at 7pm in Convocation Hall

Admission by Donation

The West African Music Ensemble

Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 7pm in Convocation Hall

Admission by Donation

Transcriptions for Winds...and more!

The University of Alberta Concert Band

Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 2 pm in Convocation Hall

Featuring works by Breugnon, Reed, and Perischetti

Admission by Donation

Music at Winspear presents:

World Music Sampler

Featuring the West African, Indian,
and Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensembles

Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 3pm at the Winspear Centre for the Arts

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Music at Winspear presents:

A Celebration of Winds & Voices

Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Madrigal Singers & Concert Choir

Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 8pm at the Winspear Centre for the Arts

Featuring works by Brahms, Grainger, Holsinger, Purcell & Whitacre

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